

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204260

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TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, SENV

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE: VISIT OF DR. CANO TO
WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK

BUENOS AIRES FOR WILCOX

USUN FOR SEIFMAN

U.S. OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH PLANNING FOR UN WATER
CONFERENCE MET WITH DR. CANO OF ARGENTINE HOST COUNTRY
COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 9 (WASHINGTON) AND AUGUST 12 (NEW YORK).
AMONG POINTS COVERED WERE THE FOLLOWING:

1. WE WARNED OF POSSIBILITY THAT CONFERENCE MIGHT TAKE
FRUITLESS PATH OF DIVISIVE ACCRIMONY AND SUGGESTED THAT
ARGENTINA (AS HOST COUNTRY) AND SUDAN (COUNTRY OF
CONFERENCE SYG) WERE IN GOOD POSITION TO TALK WITH G-77
COUNTRIES AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR A SUBSTANTIVE CONFERENCE
WITH CONTENTIOUS RHETORIC HELD TO A MINIMUM.

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PAGE 02 STATE 204260

2. CANO INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE SPEAKING TO THE

ARGENTINE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WOULD PROBABLY UTILIZE HIS VISIT TO THE 31ST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER TO MAKE THIS POINT KNOWN AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS. CANO DID NOT FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT CONFERENCE SYG MAGEED WAS A VERY STRONG FORCE, WITH MUCH INFLUENCE OVER ARABS AND OTHER AFRICANS.

3. CANO, IN REFERENCE TO RECENT ESCAP MEETING IN BANGKOK, POINTED OUT THAT DISPUTE OVER SHARED RIVER RESOURCES WHICH EMERGED DURING MEETING HAD NOT RESULTED IN POLITICIZED RECOMMENDATIONS IN ESCAP REPORT. WE EXPRESSED HOPE FOR SIMILAR RESULT FROM FORTHCOMING ECLA PREPARATORY MEETING.

4. CANO WAS PROVIDED WITH A COPY OF CHRISTIAN HERTER'S STATEMENT MADE AT THE CLOSE OF THE HABITAT CONFERENCE.

5. CANO URGED U.S. TO SPONSOR "PAVILION" AT CONFERENCE EXPOSITION BUT COULD GIVE NO DETAILS ON THEME, SIZE OR COSTS INVOLVED. SOME INQUIRIES FROM U.S. INDUSTRY HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED, AND WE WILL NEED EXPOSITION SPECIFICATIONS PROMPTLY IF U.S. IS TO BE RESPONSIVE.

6. CANO DESCRIBED ARGENTINE PLANS FOR CONCURRENT TECHNICAL SEMINARS AND STATED INTENTION TO PROVIDE LIST OF U.S. EXPERTS WHOM GOA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PARTICIPATE. CANO SUGGESTED THAT IF U.S. COULD INCLUDE EXPERTS ON OFFICIAL DELEGATION, THEIR EXPENSES WOULD BE HELD DOWN. SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER BY U.S. PREPARATORY TASK FORCE REVEALED FOLLOWING CONCERNS: (A) TECHNICAL SEMINARS MIGHT DETRACT FROM MAIN OBJECTIVES OF CONFERENCE; AND (B) THEY MAY BE PLOY TO NARROW FOCUS AND THEREBY RESTRICT PARTICIPATION OF NGOS. DISCUSSION THIS MATTER WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS HAS REVEALED SIMILAR CONCERNS.

7. FOR WILCOX: ANY LIGHT YOU CAN SHED ON QUESTIONS RAISED PARAS 5 AND 6 ABOVE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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